

****Media Advisory****

Recovery Plan Gets Healthcare to Americans in Need as it Invests in Health Reforms that Will Save Lives and Money

Economic Recovery Plan Includes Critical Investment in Health IT

Rep. Wilson to celebrate the federal investment in change on Thursday at Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, U.S. Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) voted in favor of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which will provide significant relief for those hurt the worst by current economic conditions and save or create jobs to rebuild the economy. The legislation was signed by President Obama today.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs and subsequently lost their healthcare. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act prevents health coverage loss and stabilizes the system. In addition, the new law will make key investments that will ultimately lower health spending.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will:

- Modernize the health care system by spurring on the adoption of health information technology by 2014. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the bill reduces health costs for the federal government by over \$12 billion over 10 years.
- Protect health coverage for millions of Americans during the recession. The legislation provides \$87 billion in the form of a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance

Percentage so that no state has to cut eligibility for Medicaid and SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program) because of budget shortfalls. This investment will protect 20 million people who might otherwise be at risk.

- Provide health coverage for 7 million Americans. Those who lose their jobs will now have a new 65% tax credit to keep their health insurance through COBRA.

"This is good for Americans who are facing the double whammy of job loss and healthcare loss," Wilson said. "In addition, this new law invests into some much needed changes in our health industry that will save lives and money in the future. Quite simply, investing in health IT will improve quality of care and reduce cost. It just makes sense that if a hospital is spending less on moving records and images around, it will also have more money to spend on hiring staff."

Rep. Wilson will celebrate the federal investment in change at Holzer Medical Center on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

WHO: Congressman Charlie Wilson; Jim Phillippe, President Holzer Medical Center

WHAT: Hospital tour, health IT demonstration and media availability to discuss the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

WHERE: Holzer Medical Center
100 Jackson Pike
Gallipolis

WHEN: Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

WHY: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help Ohio's families with healthcare costs and help hospitals streamline healthcare management to ultimately save lives and money.